

From Dorene Whitworth – May 4, 2026

Hello STOP Administrators,

While we were all in Chicago, the AVA Board of Directors had an opportunity to sit down with Principle Deputy Director Bea Hanson and the OVW STOP Team to discuss some of the issues that came out of the AVA Annual meeting. Below is a brief summary of the topics discussed. Please know that AVA will follow up on these and other matters throughout this coming year.

Future Conference Attendance: AVA discussed the value in allowing states and territories to bring up to two administrators and staff to the annual conference. As you know OVW has always run up against budget restrictions which has limited attendance in the past. Since next year will be an administrators-only meeting and states will be providing their own travel, there is a better likelihood that each state and territory will be able to bring two people. Deputy Director Hanson took this suggestion under advisement.

Future Conference Location: AVA asked that when OVW and/or ALSO is looking for next year's conference location that they please take into consideration the fact that there has not been a conference held in the west since 2010. That places an undue hardship on those traveling from the west coast and pacific islands in regard to both travel time and cost.

Implementation Planning: If OVW follows the current planning cycle, a new 3-year plan will be due with the FY 2017 application next spring. We offered your suggestion about creating a system whereby a new plan would be due with each VAWA reauthorization, with only updates due in between. This was again taken under advisement but AVA will pursue this in order to provide input as to what should be required in the interim years

should they decide to adopt this suggestion.

Documenting Match: The current electronic financial reporting system requires an entry for estimated match on the initial report in the award period. Unfortunately there is not a way to change this figure during close-out to reflect the actual figure based on awards, reallocations, etc. AVA is sending Deputy Director Hanson more specific information on this situation and OVW will look into the issue.

VAWA Reauthorization: We discussed that AVA would be participating in national conversations regarding the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. We offered to update OVW regularly about these discussions.

Reporting Burden: AVA relayed the concerns we've heard from administrators regarding the heavy reporting burdens placed on STOP funding. Deputy Director Hanson explained the challenge of condensing the report for Congress. We were able to share several examples of how reporting is done with State funds. She also asked if AVA could help identify questions on the Muskie report that may not be seen as particularly useful. This will be an ongoing discussion as many of the mandates are outlined in statute but perhaps there is a better way to capture and document the necessary information.

We very much appreciated the time Deputy Director Hanson took to meet with the AVA Board. As we move forward, we will continue to hold regular monthly meetings with Amy Loder and the OVW STOP team. Please don't hesitate to share any issues of concerns you'd like us to include in those conversations. Thank you.

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